

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5770

LIMDIS

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TAGS: AEMR, RP

SUBJ: PHIL STATEMENT ON VIETNAM REFUGEES

REF: STATE 103167

1. STATEMENT REPORTED AP TICKER AND ATTRIBUTED COLONEL OLEGARIO REPRESENTS STATE OF CONFUSION PREVAILING WITH PHILIPPINE BUREAUCRACY OVER LONG FOUR-DAY HOLIDAY, WITH MARCOS OUT OF TOWN AND ROMULO PROVIDING THE MOST RECKLESS AND ERRATIC LEADERSHIP POSSIBLE. RESULT HAS BEEN IRRESPONSIBLE POSTURING BY MATTRESS MICE SUCH AS OLEGARIO, WHO WAS PROBABLY ALCOHOLICALLY EXPANSIVE WHEN HE SPOKE.

2. DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, UNDER DIRECTION ROMULO AND COLLANTES, HAS ISSUED SERIES OF CONFLICTING INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES, WHICH HAVE SHIFTED FROM ONE EXTREME TO ANOTHER OVER PAST FEW DAYS. FOR EXAMPLE, FEW HOURS BEFORE OLEGARIO STATEMENT ON NGUYEN CAO KY, COLLANTES HAD TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN OFFERING TO MAKE GOP HOSPITALITY AVAILABLE TO KY. AMBASSADOR SAID HE DOUBTED THAT WAS EITHER NECESSARY OR PRUDENT, AND EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR MOVING KY RAPIDLY TO GUAM.

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3. ADDITIONAL CONFUSION WHICH MAY SUBSEQUENTLY COME TO DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION HAS BEEN INCOMPETENT GOP HANDLING OF FIRST FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC ARRIVALS AT SUBIC. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR HAS PROTESTED VIGOROUSLY AT PEJORATIVE INSCRIPTION IN HIS PASSPORT WHICH STATES HE WAS ADMITTED TO PHILIPPINES "ON CONDITION HE TAKE FIRST PLANE OUT." THIS INSCRIPTION WAS AT ROMULO'S PERSONAL DIRECTION. WHEN IRANIAN COMPLAINED TO ROMULO, HE GOT STREAM OF FAST DOUBLE TALK WHICH LEFT HIM FURTHER IRRITATED. AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN WILL TAKE IRANIAN HOME THIS AFTERNOON FOR COOLING SWIM, BUT DAMAGE TO GOP-IRAN RELATIONS HAS BEEN DONE.

4. OUR ONLY RECOURSE TO THIS JABBERWOCK HAS BEEN COOL HEAD OF ALEX MELCHOR, WHO HAS MANAGED TO GET PASSPORT INSCRIPTION CHANGED, STATEMENTS ON KY MUFFLED, AND GENERAL GOP CRITICISIM MODIFIED. HE HAS ALSO MADE EFFORT TO ASSUAGE IRANIANS. MELCHOR'S PRIVATE COMMENT IS THAT ROMULO "IS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL MENOPAUSE."

5. IN SUM, THERE IS A LOT OF LOOSE TALK, A LOT OF EMPTY BLUSTER, AND A GREAT DEAL OF CONFUSION RESULTING FROM ROMULO'S SEMI-HYSTERIC REACTION TO EVENTS IN INDOCHINA. BUT, WITH MELCHOR, AND EVENTUALLY WITH MARCOS, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT WE CAN MANAGE MATTERS SO THAT IT ALL REMAINS TALK RATHER THAN ACTION. AS MATTER OF PRACTICE, OPERATIONS AT CLARK AND SUBIC HAVE GONE SMOOTHLY WITH HELPFUL COOPERATION FROM VARIOUS GOP DEPARTMENTS, VOLUNTEERS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND HOSPITALS, OFFERS OF HELP FROM BOY SCOUTS, ETC. AS IS NORMAL IN PHILIPPINES, WE ARE HAVING TO OPERATE ON TWO PLANES. ONE IS THE PLANE OF THE EMPTY WORD AND THE PUBLIC RELATIONS POSTURE. THE OTHER IS THE PLANE OF GENUINE, SYMPATHETIC, AND EFFECTIVE COOPERATION. SCREEN OUT THE RHETORIC AND CONCENTRATE ON THE RESULTS.
SULLIVAN

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